

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 7 Cancel.

8. (New) An apparatus for extending an extension optical fiber glass body, comprising:
- an upper holder which holds an upper end of the extension optical fiber glass body to be extended;
  - a lower holder, provided at a position coinciding with an axial center of said upper holder and facing said upper holder,
  - wherein said lower holder holds a lower end of a pull glass member,
  - wherein an upper end of said pull glass member is joined to a lower end of the extension optical fiber glass body at a joined portion, and
  - wherein an axial center of said pull glass member coincides with an axial center of said extension optical fiber glass body;
  - an electric furnace provided between said upper holder and said lower holder and which heats said extension optical fiber glass body;
  - moving means for moving at least said lower holder toward a low position to extend said extending optical fiber glass body; and
  - control means for controlling movement of a maximum temperature portion of said electric furnace toward the joined portion to heat the joined portion, for controlling a distance the moving means moves said lower holder, and for controlling movement of the maximum temperature portion of said electric furnace away from the joined portion and toward an extended portion of said optical fiber glass body.

9. (New ) The apparatus according to claim 8,  
wherein a diameter of a lower tip of said pull glass member is smaller than a diameter of an upper tip of said pulling glass member,  
wherein a diameter of the upper tip of said pull glass member is substantially equal to a diameter of said extension optical fiber glass body, and wherein said upper tip of said pull glass member has a semi-conical shape and said pull glass member formed from a material same as said extension optical fiber glass body.
10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said diameter of said lower tip of said pulling glass member is approximately  $1/2$  to  $1/3$  of the diameter of said upper tip of said pulling glass member.